
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Sabrina Cervantes, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

SB 1109 (Alvarado-Gil) - Short-term residential therapeutic programs

Version: April 28, 2026

Urgency: No

Hearing Date: May 4, 2026

Policy Vote: HUMAN S. 4 - 0

Mandate: No

Consultant: Agnes Lee

Bill Summary: SB 1109 would require that Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Program (STRTP) licensees be subject to renewal annually if the licensee has been issued certain citations, as specified.

Fiscal Impact: Unknown ongoing General Fund costs, potentially hundreds of thousands, for the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) for state administration for licensing renewals.

Background: STRTPs, licensed by CDSS, provide short-term, 24-hour care and supervision to youth, and are intended to provide short-term mental health interventions to stabilize, support, and transition youth with high-level mental health needs to lower levels of care. As part of its program model, a STRTP must make available a core set of trauma-informed, culturally relevant services and must be prepared to provide a broad range of services that are tailored to the individual needs of a child. STRTPs are required to obtain a contract with a county mental health plan in order to provide specialty mental health services to youth and must demonstrate the ability to meet the individual therapeutic needs of each child.

During licensing inspections, CDSS may issue citations for type A violations regarding immediate health, safety, or personal rights impacts, or type B violations regarding potential health, safety, or personal rights impacts. The reports for the inspections and the complaint investigations are posted on CDSS's website.

Once a license is obtained, the STRTP has 24 months to obtain national accreditation and must update CDSS on its accreditation status at 12 months and 18 months after the date of licensure. STRTPs have 12 months from the date of licensure to obtain a mental health program approval, as specified under existing law. There are no requirements for license renewal.

Proposed Law: SB 1109 would require that STRTP licensees be subject to renewal annually by CDSS if the licensee has been issued a total of five or more type "A" citations within the past 12 months.

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